

U.S. Application No.:  
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Attorney Docket: 3968.106

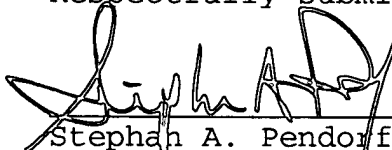
**REMARKS**

The claims have been amended to conformed to U.S. practice and requirements.

Care has been taken to ensure that no new matter has been added.

Entry and favorable consideration are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Date: January 23, 2004


**EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE**

"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER: **EV392066936US**

DATE OF DEPOSIT: **January 23, 2004**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Preliminary Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated and is addressed: **Mail Stop: Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, except for the issue fee, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 16-0877.

  
Bonnie L. Horst